

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO - POLITICAL PROBLEM AREAS AT JUNE 1974 CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 2968

1. POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT 59TH SESSION OF ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1974 WILL CENTER AROUND RESOLUTIONS, CREDENTIALS, OBSERVER STATUS, AND STRUCTURE.

2. A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXCLUSION PORTUGAL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (REFTEL). OTHERS ARE EXPECTED ON ISRAEL AND CHILE. SINCE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE LAST JANUARY FAILED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SPAIN, A PASTIME OF LITTLE INTEREST OUTSIDE GROUP OF EUROPEAN WORKERS, THERE IS GROWING EXPECTATION THAT SPAIN MAY BE IGNORED IN RESOLUTION AT JUNE CONFERENCE.

3 CHALLENGES TO CREDENTIALS HAVE BEEN EXPECTED AGAINST WORKERS DELEGATES FROM PORTUGAL AND CHILE. COUP IN PORTUGAL AND TYPE OF GOC RESPONSE RE ILO COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY PROBABLY WILL

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INFLUENCE INTENSITY OF ANY CHALLENGE.

4. ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE TO ACHIEVE OBSERVER STATUS OR OTHER FORMALIZED STATUS FOR GUINEA BISSAU AND NAMIBIA. NO INDICATION THAT ANY ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO BOOST PRG. ILO OFFICIALS BELIEVE NAMIBIA MAY SUCCEED IN GAINING OBSERVER STATUS THROUGH ITS RELATIONSHIP TO UN COMMISSION. NO EXPECTATION THAT GUINEA BISSAU WILL SUCCEED AT ILO CONFERENCE, BUT DEVELOPMENTS ON THAT ISSUE AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ARE BEING WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST.

5. INITIAL PROBLEM AT CONFERENCE RE STRUCTURE WILL BE NAMING OF CHAIRMAN. IN MISSION'S VIEW LAST YEAR'S CHAIRMAN, KOKU (NIGERIA), HAS EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS FOR JOB. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM ILO SECRETARIAT, YUGOSLAV DELEGATE FRANIC, WHO WAS MAJOR SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP THAT DESIRES CHANGE STRUCTURE, HAS NOTIFIED ILO THAT KOKU IS UNACCEPTABLE. HE IS FORMER CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BODY AND IS WIDELY RESPECTED IN ORGANIZATION AS MAN OF SOUND JUDGMENT AND BALANCED VIEWS. IN ADDITION KOKU HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND CONTINUITY THAT THE JOB REQUIRES.

6. COMMENT: POTENTIAL CHAIRMAN FOR THIS COMMITTEE WHO HAVE SOLID CREDENTIALS ARE VERY SCARCE. AMEDE OF ETHIOPIA HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, BUT HIS ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE IS UNCERTAIN. IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST FOR KOKU TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. HE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO AGAIN UNDERTAKE THE ASSIGNMENT, PARTICULARLY IN FACE OF NO CONFIDENCE VOTE OF FRANIC. HOWEVER, HE SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT HE HAS FULL BACKING OF USG AND THAT IF HE IS WILLING TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY HE CAN COUNT ON OUR SUPPORT. OFFICERS FROM AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN AND UK MISSIONS WHO FOLLOW ILO ARE OF OPINION THEIR GOVTS WOULD BE RELUCTANT ACCEPT FRANIC VIEW AS LAST WORD ON KOKU.ABRAMS

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